

Aboriginal
Arts Regional
Fund
Assessment
Meeting
Report
2016



Arts
NSW

Assessment Meeting Reporting

ABORIGINAL REGIONAL ARTS FUND (ARAF)

Closing Date: Monday, 14 March 2016

Panel Meeting Date: Thursday, 21 April 2016

OVERVIEW

The NSW Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund (ARAF) is intended to support arts projects that celebrate and promote Aboriginal cultural identities in regional NSW and, by doing so, make the rich and diverse Aboriginal cultures of regional NSW more visible and accessible. For the purposes of this fund regional NSW includes the Central Coast, Newcastle and Wollongong and is defined as the areas or regions outside Greater Sydney.

OBJECTIVES

The NSW ARAF objectives are to:

- Enable Aboriginal communities in regional NSW to explore and express their **cultural identities**;
- Engage and promote **regional** Aboriginal artists, arts and culture in NSW;
- Build local and regional community **resilience and engagement** of Aboriginal arts and cultures;
- Build the **capacity and sustainability** of Aboriginal arts organisations in regional NSW;
- Increase **professional and skills development** opportunities for Aboriginal artists living in regional NSW.

FUNDING

Funding range

- Up to **\$5,000** for individual professional artists
- Up to **\$15,000** for organisations.

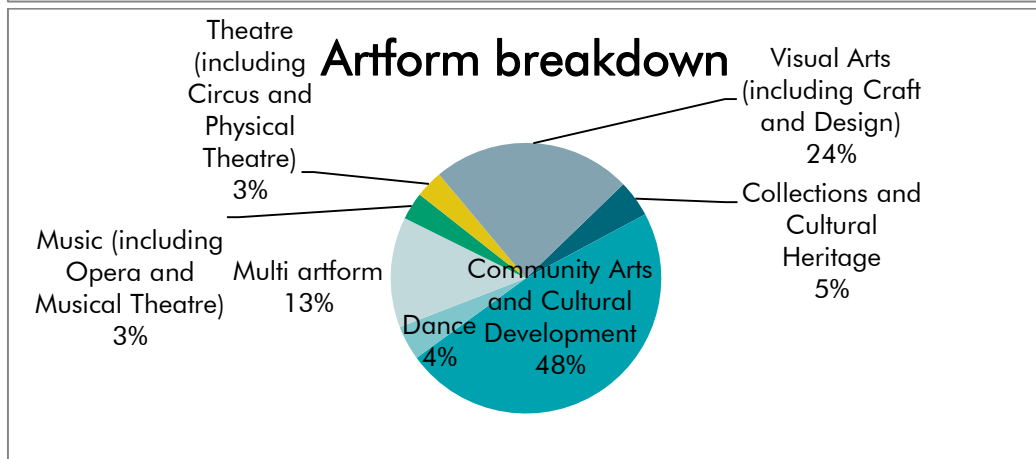
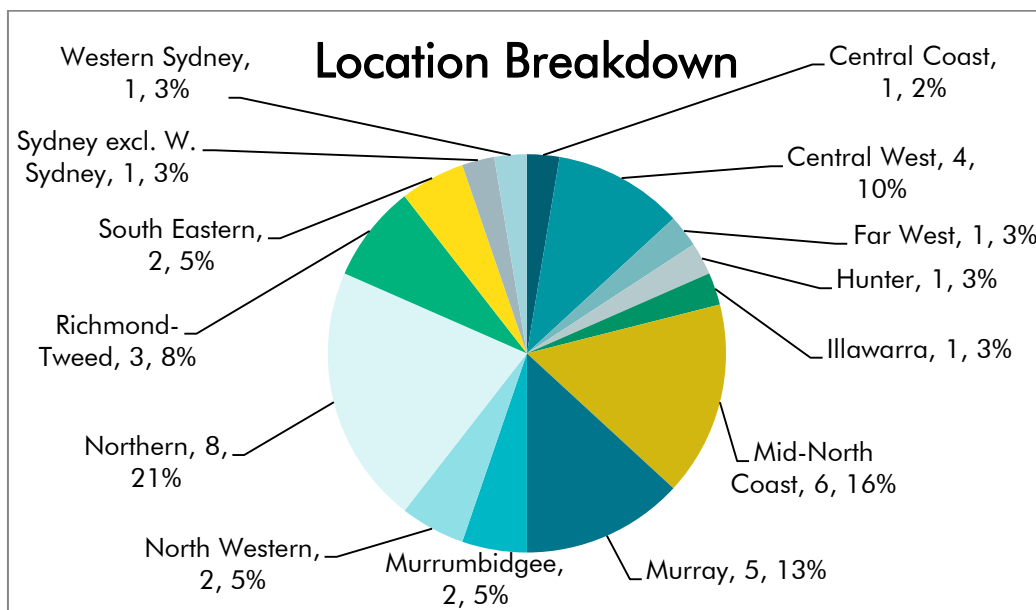
Assessment

The ARAF 2016 applications were assessed by a panel of Aboriginal peers against specific assessment criteria. The criteria are given equal weighting.

- Artistic and Cultural Merit (Quality)
- Engagement and Participation (Reach)
- Viability (Health)
- Budget (Health)

FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	38
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	15
SUCCESS RATE	39%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$454,934
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$208,315



PANEL ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The assessment panel noted the geographic spread of applications, the variety of arts practices and diversity of good community outcomes. While the calibre of the successful projects was high the panel noted that in some cases applicants were proposing to repeat projects that had been previously undertaken in other regions and would like to encourage more innovation from applicants to future rounds.

Applicants are reminded to:

- Include only appropriate support material. Letters of support in particular should be relevant to the project and confirm details of the support offered.
- Clearly express the creative rationale for the project and seek assistance in developing a viable implementation schedules and detailed budgets – particularly with respect to allocations for the creative/artistic components of the proposal.
- Consider the possibility of extending a project's life beyond their own region by partnering across regional and/or metropolitan NSW.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

ABORIGINAL REGIONAL ARTS FUND (2016)

Project title: **Murrumbidgee Murrumbarra**

Applicant: **Western Riverina Arts Inc**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

Murrumbidgee Murrumbarra incorporates a series of Aboriginal arts workshops run over twelve months, focussing on identified key visual arts skills: painting, woodcarving and weaving. Experienced Aboriginal artists from regional NSW will be contracted to work as mentors with selected younger Aboriginal artists from the Western Riverina community, developing skills and new work. Some mentor roles will be filled by featured artists from the first Murrumbidgee Murrumbarra exhibition (June 2016), a new initiative showcasing the best contemporary Aboriginal artwork coming out of the Western Riverina region. Skills and work developed will inform the second iteration of Murrumbidgee Murrumbarra, planned for 2017.

Project title: **Making Old Markings New**

Applicant: **Arts North West Inc**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

This project is to support professional and skills development of four Anaiwan and Kamilaroi artists, observed and supported by a Kamilaroi Elder and an Aboriginal Project Manager, to re-connect and re-build their regional cultural identity. The artists will work with experts at the Australian Museum and the University of New England to explore objects and mark making traditions from the New England North West, and to visit Rock Art sites in the New England. It will culminate in an e-resource and mini-exhibition that will help community artists to apply this rediscovered knowledge to their professional contemporary arts practice.

Project title: **Speaking Countries (formerly Circle of Cultures)**

Applicant: **NAISDA Dance College**

Total amount requested: **\$12,800**

The presentation of Indigenous cultural dance performance 'Speaking Countries' in Sydney to coincide with the NAISDA End of Year Show celebrating 40 years of NAISDA. The performances will showcase both emerging and established NSW Indigenous cultural dance practitioners from across NSW over 8 days in November.

Project title: **Five Women - Connected & Seen**

Applicant: **The Slim Dusty Museum Trust Fund**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

Five Women - Connected & Seen is collaboration between DNAAG artists and SDC. The project activities revolve around five Aboriginal artists producing and contributing artworks for a six week exhibition held in the Nulla Nulla Gallery. The artists will work together and separately to express their cultural identities, and will be engaged in a rotational residency to promote their artistic practice and culture, to local, national and international visitors. Additionally, the artists will reach out to young Aboriginal people from the Mid North Coast and beyond with video documentation for dissemination to social media.

Project title: **Wagambirra Sharing Stories**

Applicant: **Yalbillinga Boori Day Care Centre**

Total amount requested: **\$6,000**

An extended project comprising workshops in Cowra and cultural performances to educate and improve cultural dance and performance.

Project title: **Jimmy Little Gathering**

Applicant: **Arts OutWest Inc**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

The Jimmy Little Gathering will be a music based one day event which will include performances by Aboriginal musicians, actors and dancers, storytelling sessions and workshops covering a range of Indigenous arts and culture. The Bathurst event aims to create an environment of healing for the community. The Bathurst Wiradyuri and Aboriginal Community Elders will be supported to present the event by the Jimmy Little Foundation, Black Theatre, Bathurst Regional Council including Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC) and Arts OutWest.

Project title: **Weaving a Way Together**

Applicant: **3rd Space Mob Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

The project aims to create traditional and contemporary fibre artworks using Bundjalung weaving techniques and Eco-Dyeing methods to produce saleable art works. The performance will involve a ceremonial procession of art works and dance performance representing the knowledge that relates to Bundjalung Country.

The project will culminate in a multi-sensory performance that builds on the current knowledge of Bundjalung fibre artists and enables the transference of educative sharing across the generation through the engagement of youth and elders working together.

Project title: **Celebrate the 'Gate**

Applicant: **Dharriwaa Elders Group Incorporated**

Total amount requested: **\$14,989**

The creative development of Celebrate the 'Gate - a new body of work which will result in public artwork in main street of Walgett and the development of wearable designs. The work will draw from the lived experiences of Elders and young people currently living in Walgett today alongside notable creative artists with family and lived connections with Walgett and the region. The work will showcase the creative minds of Walgett Murri's and a connectedness with the unique country that has sustained the meeting of rivers, people and experiences over generations and will continue to do so long into the future.

Project Title: **Aboriginal Arts and Culture Youth Development Project**

Applicant: **Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

The development and implementation of a program of youth arts workshops for Aboriginal students which will culminate in a performance/presentation at Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre. This project will occur in the autumn school holidays of 2017 and provide opportunities for school aged Aboriginal community members to build skills and capacity in the creative industries including film, photography, theatre/performance, writing and music. Key creative personnel within the community of Deniliquin and beyond will be brought in to work with the students and develop a public performance/presentation which will explore ideas of community, identity and expression.

Project title: **Wai:bal Art and Culture Project**

Applicant: **Nimbin Community Centre Inc**

Total amount requested: **\$14,480**

Workshops by respected Bundjalung artists and cultural practitioners from across a range of local clan groups will express Wai:bal cultural identity and reinforce regional cultural linkages. Audiences will share in a regional arts and cultural experience when the body of new work generated is launched through a series of exhibitions and public performances at the Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Project title: **Wilcannia's Stories**

Applicant: **West Darling Arts Inc**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

The Wilcannia Stories project aims to assist the community of Wilcannia to document the process of creating their own Indigenous stories through the arts including dance, music and theatre. It is aimed at developing the skills required to do so within their own community and Broken Hill Indigenous community and to use film as a way of documenting their stories.

Project title: **Bouncing River Kids**

Applicant: **Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Ltd**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

Bouncing River Kids is a circus skills workshop and performance program for young Aboriginal people aged 10+ in Albury. This established circus program allows participants to channel their energies into positive experiences and exposes them to an environment that fosters teamwork and an understanding of working cooperatively with others. It promotes individual learning and development and promotes local Aboriginal culture.

In 2016/17 the program will continue its focus on telling unique local stories based on life growing up with the Murray River through circus and physical theatre. A focus in 2016 is the development pathway for young Indigenous people into the full-time FFFC circus program.

Project title: **Addressing the sustainability of the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase**

Applicant: **Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

To further develop the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase, which has grown from small beginnings to becoming a major part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival (TCMF). The Showcase helps promote the talent of emerging Aboriginal musicians, arts and cultural practitioners alongside icons of the industry via a multifaceted program of performances and professional development opportunities.

Project title: **Join the Dots**

Applicant: **Wagga Wagga City Council**

Total amount requested: **\$15,000**

Join the Dots: Professional Development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Creatives will run over a 12 month period throughout 2016/17. The program will assist local creatives with enterprise development, artistic skills, exhibitions, performances and upskilling in various areas such as contract negotiations, building an online presence, networking, and applying for grants. The program will allow multiple opportunities for local creatives to showcase their craft to the wider community providing employment opportunities and economic sustainability.

Project title: **NAIDOC Week Songlines**

Applicant: **Tamworth Regional Council**

Total amount requested: **\$10,046**

NAIDOC Week Songlines project will develop a new ephemeral installation *Songlines* by local Aboriginal artists depicting the living narrative of the Kamilaroi people in Tamworth as told by local Elders.